

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation*

*by*

*Sean Parnell, Governor*

WHEREAS, Alaska is home to many citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we as Alaskans work together to ensure that those who are deaf or hard of hearing have the accommodations, access, and equal opportunities to participate in our communities in every way; and

WHEREAS, we encourage continued education for the citizens of Alaska about the rights, values, and contributions of deaf and hard of hearing citizens; and

WHEREAS, many State of Alaska agencies and numerous organizations around the state work to support our deaf and hard of hearing citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing supports the education of deaf and hard of hearing students; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Labor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, provides services in obtaining employment to citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing through the purchase of services, training, and guidance and counseling; and

WHEREAS, for the last 20 years, the Americans with Disabilities Act has sought to ensure that deaf or hearing impaired individuals are respected as equal citizens with equal opportunities to access inclusive education, achieve gainful employment, and fully participate in the recreational, leisure, and social activities of our communities, all free from discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the deaf and hard of hearing inspire us all with the obstacles they overcome and the challenges they conquer;

WHEREAS, the deaf and hard of hearing are compassionate, caring, and respected members of Alaska's communities, who serve as teachers educating our children, nurses helping the sick, and everyday citizens sharing their experiences, perspectives, and abilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim September 20 – 26, 2009 as:

### *Deaf Awareness Week*

in Alaska, and encourage all citizens to recognize and support the deaf and hard of hearing individuals and communities in Alaska.

Dated: September 17, 2009



*Sean Parnell*

*Sean Parnell, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.*